

Letters of Support



John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

Commonwealth of Virginia



98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 31, Warrenton, VA 20186-2849
(540) 347-3120

December 8, 2005

DCR Water Quality Improvement Fund Grant Committee
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, VA 23219

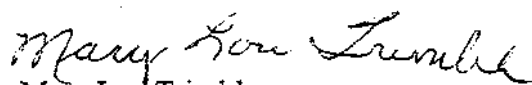
Dear Grant Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District for Fauquier Counties' Riparian Easement Program grant request. It is our belief this grant would facilitate many of the conservation objectives of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Such a program would work to reduce the nutrients entering the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay and help achieve the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement by restoring the biological integrity of our freshwater resources. Many of the riparian protections used today in the field of conservation are 10- 15 year agreements between the landowner and the state or federal government. By developing a program that could secure the protection of these riparian corridors for perpetuity the County would be achieving a milestone in conservation success.

Cooperation between agencies is one of the key ingredients to successful conservation. This point is best exemplified through the successful conservation partnership that exists between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It is our hope that a similar conservation partnership between Fauquier County and the John Marshall SWCD could grow from this easement program and bring a level of cooperation and funding that is essential in the local conservation effort.

Furthermore, as this type of program is not at all common, it is also our hope that this will provide an example for other Districts and local governments to follow. The goals of this program are clearly beneficial to the environment, the partners are poised to work towards its' success, and there is no better time than now to protect the resources we need to sustain our communities into the future. We hope you agree.

Sincerely,


Mary Lou Trimble
Chair





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Fauquier County Health Department

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
320 HOSPITAL DRIVE - SUITE 21
WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 20186

(540) 347-6363

December 10, 2005

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Improvement Fund Grant Committee
203 Governor Street
Suite 203
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Subject: Fauquier County Riparian Buffer Easement Program

Dear Improvement Fund Committee;

The purpose of this correspondence is to offer the full support of the Fauquier County Health Department to the efforts of Fauquier County to secure a grant to advance their proposed riparian buffer easement program.

Fauquier County has recognized its responsibility to its citizens and the downstream neighbors to protect its water resources for the future. This objective is a vital responsibility and can only be achieved through the judicious protection of the riparian areas of the county.

Over many months, stakeholders including interested citizens, local experts and elected officials have met to discuss the scope of such an effort and to gauge local interest in a riparian buffer program. It has become evident, during that time, that there is wide support for this effort. A grant would allow the groundwork of the committee to proceed in an orderly and determined direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Shepherd, RS
District Environmental Health Manager

Rappahannock-Rapidan
REGIONAL COMMISSION

OFFICERS

December 8, 2005

Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) Grant Committee
Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, VA 23219

Re Fauquier County Riparian Buffer Easement Program

Dear Grant Fund Committee Members:

COMMISSIONERS

On behalf of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, I am writing to communicate our enthusiastic support for the Fauquier County Riparian Buffer Easement Program's upcoming application for funding.

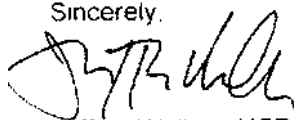
It is, we believe, an important and promising new initiative, given its aims of reducing non-point source pollution, improving area water quality, and in so doing, helping to realize state TMDL and Tributary Strategy objectives.

With your assistance, it is our belief that the program has the potential to accomplish much, and ultimately become a model for others to follow, both within the region and across the state.

For these and other reasons, we strongly urge your support.

With thanks in advance for your consideration

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Walker, AICP
Deputy Director

as of March 2004



**Be River Friendly
It's Your Backyard**

The Rappahannock River Basin Commission

December 8, 2005

**Department of Conservation and Recreation
Water Quality Improvement Fund Grant Committee
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

Dear Committee Members:

As Chairman of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission I write to share with you the wholehearted support of the membership of the Commission for the County's grant application for a full time staff position to develop and implement countywide Riparian Buffer Easement Program in Fauquier County. Unanimous support for this measure was granted at the Commission's meeting on December 7, 2005.

We uniquely recognize the importance of developing a program which will help protect and improve the water quality of not only the Rappahannock watershed, but the Potomac, Goose Creek and Aquia watersheds as well. We heartily welcomed learning of this new, innovative proposal which will not only seek to reduce non-point source pollution but will assist in implementing the goals of the state TMDL and Tributary Strategies implementation plans.

The River Basin Commission implemented a Non-Point Working Group some time ago. We see this grant application as consistent with the goals of the Work Group.

We collectively extend to you all best wishes for much success with the implementation of the new program.

Sincerely,

**Robert J. Wittman
Chairman**

RJW:jhi



December 6, 2005

Ms. Denise Harris
Fauquier County Water Resource Management Program
24 Pelham Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Ms. Harris:

As a participant in the FREPS process over the past several months, the Goose Creek Association supports the concept of a Riparian Buffer Easement Program and will be pleased to provide volunteer monitoring services and information as appropriate.

The Goose Creek Association would like to encourage the Department of Conservation and recreation to fund the grant for this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Nancy West
Goose Creek Association, Co-Chair



CITIZENS FOR FAUQUIER COUNTY

Post Office Box 3486 ♦ Warrenton VA 20188 ♦ www.citizensforfauquier.org

1 December, 2005

DCR Water Quality Improvement Fund Grant Committee.
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Sir or Madam,

Citizens for Fauquier County (CFFC) supports Fauquier County's application for a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to assist in developing a riparian easement program. CFFC is a nonprofit citizen's group whose mission includes the protection and preservation of natural resources through education and leadership, and we have been working to educate residents of Fauquier County with regard to natural resources since 1968. We have been a leading proponent of the County's Purchase of Development Rights program and are also an enthusiastic advocate of conservation easements.

A representative of our Environmental Resources Committee has been a member of the recent FREPS Team and has kept our Board of Directors apprised of the ongoing effort to develop a riparian easement program. We have committed our organization to continue to work with the County in the development of such a program and, upon its implementation, to assist in educational efforts regarding its existence and benefits to river and stream ecology and water quality.

We applaud the efforts of Fauquier County to conserve and indeed improve the considerable natural resources of Fauquier County and are eager to work further with the riparian easement effort.

Sincerely,

M. E. Moore
Chair, Environmental Resources Committee

Carl E. Garrison, III
State Forester



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800

Charlottesville, VA 22903

www.dof.virginia.gov

(434) 977-6555

Fax: (434) 977-7749

December 12, 2005

The Virginia Department of Forestry offered to participate in the Fauquier Riparian Easement Program discussions and has had representation at the four work sessions in Warrenton since August. The DOF has offered the following for the Easement Program's Declaration of Cooperation: "The VA DOF, per Executive Order #91 (July, 2005), is recognized as the lead agency for Riparian Forest Buffer implementation in the Commonwealth, and as such will assist the Fauquier Riparian Easement Program Solutions Team in technical service delivery for riparian plantings and in-stream restoration efforts. Additionally the Department will seek grant funding, to the extent possible, to offset loss of locality funding due to those riparian easements subject to a tax exemption."

The goals for the Fauquier program closely align with the mission of the DOF in promoting the preservation and protection of forested riparian buffers. In particular the efforts of the Fauquier initiative advance the Chesapeake Executive Council Directive 03-01 (December 17, 2003), Executive Order 91- Preserving Water Quality by Establishing Riparian Buffers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2005) and the Virginia Riparian Buffer Implementation Plan goals to:

- conserve existing riparian Buffers
- restore riparian buffers
- promote and facilitate the voluntary establishment or restoration of riparian buffers by private landowners
- coordinate implementation of the actions recommended in the Revised Implementation Plan
- promote education and outreach, and to
- target, track and conduct research on riparian buffers

The DOF is providing this letter of support for the grant application the Fauquier Easement Team is submitting to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for funding this program.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Fulcher".

James Fulcher
Chesapeake Bay Coordinator
(434)977-1375 ext. 3389
JIM.FULCHER@DOF.VIRGINIA.GOV

Mission: We Protect and Develop Healthy, Sustainable Forest Resources for Virginians.